

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER THAN A HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL DRAFTED IN SECRECY, AND THEY WILL DEMAND IT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have a message from the citizens of Georgia: don't dare bring a bill before this House that spends one dime of taxpayer money to provide health care for illegal aliens.

During the month of August, the citizens of my State and the country spoke out on health care reform. Their outcry was unlike anything we have seen in recent years. Town hall meetings, TEA parties, freedom rallies, they all became the forum in which the public protest was intended to send a message to this House.

But here we are 2 months later, and none of the concerns of August have been addressed. In particular, no version of the health care reform that is before the House includes the language that I offered that would require proof of citizenship before receiving taxpayer-funded health care. Now it appears that the House is in a holding pattern. Media reports indicate that Speaker PELOSI is drafting her own version of health care reform. Other reports suggest that President Obama and the White House are drafting another bill.

What appears very clear is that these bills are being drafted in secret and behind closed doors and that there is no intention to submit them to the House committees for hearings or for mark-ups.

I call on the Speaker and the President to open up the process, allow Republicans such as me, the ranking member of the Health Care Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, to participate in the drafting of this bill. It's time for the law to clearly state that those who want taxpayer-funded health care must prove and must verify that they are citizens. I have language that will make that happen. But thus far it has been rejected along a party-line vote. Today the other body rejected a similar proposal along a party-line vote.

If health care is to be written in secret, if the normal committee processes are bypassed, if illegal aliens are allowed to receive taxpayer-funded health care, if a bill is rushed through this House with no opportunity to read it, if any of these things happen, I predict that the historic outcry of the American people during August will pale in comparison to the voices of concern that they will raise as a result of that abuse.

Madam Speaker, this issue is too big, it is too important to our people, it is too destructive of our free market enterprise system to be cloaked in secrecy and rushed through this body in a partisan wheelbarrow. If that happens, the Members of this House should be outraged. But, more importantly, the American people will be outraged.

Tyranny by whatever name it bears and whatever iron fist it raises is still tyranny. The American people deserve better and they will demand it.

#### EXTOLLING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, times of crisis make or break reputations. My home State of Georgia experienced such a crisis in the past 2 weeks, with rainfall and floods believed to set the benchmark for a 500-year period.

Last week President Obama declared parts of Georgia a disaster area, opening up Federal aid, and the House of Representatives paid tribute to both the victims of the flood and the courageous emergency workers who put their own lives on the line to protect lives and property.

Tragically, despite our best efforts, at least 10 Georgians died in those floods. Seven of those deaths were in Douglas County, part of which I represent. The State of Georgia estimates that 20,000 homes suffered extensive damage, thousands were at least temporarily homeless, and damages have reached \$500 million and could rise from there.

The worst destruction occurred in the upper Chattahoochee River basin. Because the rising water flowing down the river could have easily snowballed and ravaged areas south of West Point Dam, we're fortunate that areas of west Georgia didn't experience devastation on the scale seen in north Georgia and metro Atlanta.

While areas southwest of Atlanta did see some inevitable flooding during the heaviest rainfalls on record, counties south of West Point Lake benefited from the excellent management of the lake by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In recent years the Corps of Engineers has battled both extremes from divvying up sacred water resources during a painful drought in 2007 to

taming raging floodwaters in recent weeks.

The Corps has performed important water management tasks that most Americans take for granted. The Corps takes abuse when it has to issue tough decisions, but its many good works go unnoticed.

I want to correct that oversight today. The Corps management of the basin and specifically West Point Lake during the floods unquestionably saved lives and property. The Corps has acted with foresight and skill, and my constituents in west Georgia benefited from the actions immensely.

When heavy rains began to fall in north Georgia and metro Atlanta, the Corps prepared early for the deluge of water heading downstream and strategically released water from the lake to create more storage capacity. A leading expert on West Point Lake, Joe Maltese of LaGrange, called the Corps' early maneuvering "brilliant."

"Throughout the week of the floods, the Corps used the water storage capacity it had been given to its fullest and held nature's fury back to protect as much and as many as they could downstream below West Point Dam," Maltese said.

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The Corps walked a tightrope trying to assure the dam held back all it could against a mighty surge, and they succeeded.

Even though this year's flood set the 500-year benchmark, the Corps managed to keep the dam below record levels set in 2003 while at the same time regulating releases to prevent massive flooding below the dam.

Residents of Troup County, the county where West Point Lake is, have stood united in their praise of the Corps of Engineers. The LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce West Point Lake Committee gave the Corps a sincere thank you. And the city of West Point, which did suffer some flooding, is grateful that the Corps of Engineers prevented the worst from happening. "The Corps did an excellent job controlling the river," said West Point police chief David Kerr.

To that, I would like to add my gratitude and congratulations to the fine men and women of the Corps of Engineers for their efforts during a trying time for Georgia. When crisis hit, these public servants stood ready and able. When reputations could be made or broken, they made theirs. We will never know how many lives were saved by their actions, and for that we're all grateful. And the people of west Georgia want to commend the Army Corps of Engineers.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Last night here in this Chamber I gave a speech. I'm not